Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method, the method comprising:

requesting router status information of router devices belonging to a common sub-network, the router devices connected to external networks, respectively, the external networks being different from each other~~of a respective router device~~;

acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities to decide whether the respective router device is to have an operational status in which the respective router device is placed in operation based on the router status information, the router status information including at least line status information indicating a status of a respective ~~the~~ physical link of the external networks to the respective router device so that the router devices belonging to the common sub-network operate as one virtual router device; and

deciding a first router device belonging to the common sub-network that is operational and a second router device to be placed in a standby status, according to the calculated priorities.

2. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method, comprising:

an information request step of requesting router status information of router devices belonging to a common sub-network, the router devices being connected to external networks respectively, the external networks being different from each other;

a step of acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities for deciding a router device that is to become operational based on the router status information including at least line status information indicating the status of ~~the~~a respective physical link of the external networks to the respective router device so that a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network operate virtually as one router device;

a step of transmitting the priorities calculated for each of the router devices of the common sub-network between or among the router devices of the common sub-network; and

a step for a first router device which received the calculated priorities to decide whether or not to become operational, depending upon a calculated priority of the first router and a calculated priority of a second router device received from the second router device which is operational.

3. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, further including a step of adjusting the priorities between or among the router devices depending upon a significance of the router status information.

4. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein a request for the router status information is periodically made based on the information request step.

5. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein a request for the router status information is made according to a request from a communication device including the router devices connected to the common sub-network.

6. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein the calculating of the priorities is made when there is a change in the router status information acquired.

7. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein the router status information further includes at least one of a processing burden or a remaining battery capacity of the respective router device.

8. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device, comprising:

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of router devices belonging to a common sub-network, the router devices being connected to external networks, respectively, the external networks being different from each other;

a priority calculating section for calculating priorities to decide a router device that is to become operational based on the router status information including at least line status information indicating the status of ~~the~~a respective physical link of the external networks to the

respective router device so that a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network operate virtually as one router device; and

a priority notifying section for notifying the priorities calculated for the router devices respectively to the router devices of the common sub-network.

9. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device comprising:

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information including at least a link status value indicating a status of a physical link of each router device to one of external networks and a remaining capacity value indicating a remaining battery capacity of each router device of the router devices belonging to a common sub-network, the router devices being connected to the external networks, respectively, the external networks being different from each other;

a priority calculating section for calculating a priority for each router device belonging to the common sub-network using the link status value and the remaining capacity value such that the calculated priority for each router device belonging to the common sub-network is based on a weighting of at least the link status value and the remaining capacity value associated with a respective router device so that a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network operate virtually as one router device;

a master deciding section for deciding a first router device of the router devices belonging to the common sub-network that is to become operational and a second router device of the router devices belonging to the common sub-network that is to be placed in a standby status, according to the calculated priorities; and

a master notifying section for notifying information identifying the decided first and second router devices thereto.

10. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router information gathering section has a comparing section for comparing the router status information newly acquired with existing router status information, to instruct the priority calculating section to re-calculate a priority when the comparing section detects a difference in the router status information.

11. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router information gathering section has an information request section for requesting the router status information to the router device.

12. (Original) A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section has a timer, the information request section requesting the router status information when receiving a time-up notification from the timer.

13. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section further includes an update request receiving section for receiving an update request for the priority from a communication device including the router devices connected to the common sub-network,

the update request receiving section, when receiving the update request, making a notification to the information request section whereby the information request section requests the router status information to the router device.

14. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router status information further includes at least one of a processing burden or a remaining battery capacity of the respective router device.

15. (Currently Amended) A router device configured to operate with at least one other router device, as a plurality of router devices that belong to a common sub-network, the router device comprising:

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least one of a line status indicating the status of ~~the~~a respective physical link to the router device or a remaining battery capacity indicating a remaining battery capacity of the router device, the router device and the one other router device being connected to external networks, respectively, the external networks being different from each other;

a priority receiving section for receiving a priority for deciding whether the router device is to become operational so that ~~a~~the plurality of router devices that belong to ~~a~~the common sub-network operate virtually as one router device; and

a master deciding section for deciding whether the router device is to become operational or to be placed in a standby status, according to the priority received ~~and a priority notified~~ from a first router device which is operational.

16. (Previously Presented) A router device according to claim 15, wherein the status notifying section forwards periodically the router status information onto the common sub-network.

17. (Previously Presented) A router device according to claim 15, further including an information request receiving section for receiving a request for the router status information, to forward the router status information onto the common sub-network depending upon the request the status notifying section received.

18. (Previously Presented) A router device according to claim 15, further including a status monitor section for monitoring a change in the router status information, the status monitor section, when detecting a change in the router status information, making a notification to the information notifying section whereby the information notifying section forwards a latest router status information onto the common sub-network.

19. (Currently Amended) A local network system, comprising:

a plurality of router devices, each of the plurality of router devices including: ~~that is comprised with~~

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least one of a line status indicating the status of ~~the~~ a respective physical link of external networks to the respective router device or a remaining battery capacity of the respective router device, the plurality of router devices being connected to the external networks, respectively, the external networks being different from each other,

a priority receiving section for receiving a priority for deciding whether the respective router device is to become operational so that a plurality of router devices that belong to a common sub-network operate virtually as one router device, and

a master deciding section for deciding whether the router device is to become operational or to be placed in a standby status, according to the priority received and a priority notified from a first router device which is operational; and

a router priority calculation device that includes: ~~is comprised with~~

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of the router devices belonging to the common sub-network,

a priority calculating section for calculating priorities for deciding a router device that is to become operational based on the router status information so that a plurality of router devices belonging to the common sub-network operate virtually as one router device, and

a priority notifying section for notifying the priorities calculated for each router device belonging to the common sub-network respectively thereto.

20. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, further including a step of adjusting the priorities between the router devices depending upon a significance of the router status information.

21. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein a request for the router status information is periodically made based on the information request step.

22. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein a request for the router status information is made according to a request from a communication device including the router devices connected to the common sub-network.

23. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein the calculating of the priorities is made when there is a change in the router status information acquired.

24. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein the router status information further includes at least one of a processing burden or a remaining battery capacity of the router device.

25. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has a comparing section for comparing the router status information newly acquired with existing router status information, to instruct the priority calculating section to re-calculate a priority when the comparing section detects a difference in the router status information.

26. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has an information request section for requesting the router status information to the router device.

27. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 26, wherein the router information gathering section has a timer, the information request section requesting the router status information when receiving a time-up notification from the timer.

28. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 26, wherein the router information gathering section further includes an update request receiving section for receiving an update request for the priority from a communication device including the router devices connected to the common sub-network,

the update request receiving section, when receiving the update request, making a notification to the information request section whereby the information request section requests the router status information to the router device.

29. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router status information further includes at least one of a processing burden or remaining battery capacity of the router device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the line status information further includes battery capacity information that indicates a remaining battery capacity of the respective router device such that the calculated priorities are based on the line status information and the remaining battery capacity of the respective router device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the line status information indicates at least one of: (i) a transmission speed of the physical link, (ii) an error condition for the physical link, or (iii) a degree of congestion on the physical link, the physical link being different from any router device.